

## Sexuality Resources

### Books

These three short books together give a great starting point in understanding the Biblical arguments and the pastoral implications. All three are written by Christians who are attracted to the same sex.

- *Walking with Gay Friends*, Alex Tylee - full of practical insights and advice for loving gay friends.
- *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*, Wesley Hill - excellent and very helpful reflections on living as a gay Christian.
- *Is God Anti-gay?* Sam Allberry. Short, very clear and easy to read.

Further reading:

- *A Better Story: God, sex and human flourishing*. Glynn Harrison's attempt to provide a framework for understanding sexuality which is not only biblically faithful but also attractive and life-giving.
- *People to be Loved*, Preston Sprinkle. Really gracious, and a thoughtful way of approaching what the Bible has to say.
- *Living in a Gray World*, Preston Sprinkle. Currently only available from the US, but a great cut-down version of *People to be Loved* aimed at teenagers.
- *God and the Gay Christian? A response to Matthew Vines*, ed. R. Albert Mohler Jr. A concise response to Matthew Vines' book, listed below. Helpful, if you can stomach the rhetoric...
- *The End of Sexual Identity: Why sex is too important to define who we are*, Jennell Williams Paris. Brilliant consideration of lots of issues around sexuality, showing that things aren't as simple as we sometimes assume them to be.
- *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*, Rosaria Champagne Butterfield. How a lesbian professor of queer theory became a Christian. Gives a helpful challenge to the way Christians talk about sexuality, particularly in an academic setting.
- *Moral Vision of the New Testament: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*, Richard Hays. General introduction to NT ethics, scholarly but very accessible. The section on homosexuality is brief but excellent.
- *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*, Robert A. J. Gagnon. The classic text on what the Bible says about sexuality. Detailed, although not very compassionate.
- *Homosexuality and the Christian: A guide for parents, pastors, friends*, Mark A. Yarhouse. Yarhouse is a psychologist and has been involved in some key research on sexuality and whether therapy can change a person's sexual orientation.
- *Plastic People: How Queer Theory Is Changing Us*, Peter Sanlon. Explores the way queer theory has affected the way we think about identity and gender categories.
- *Unwanted Same-Sex Attraction: issues of pastoral and counselling support* - Andrew Goddard and Glynn Harrison. Looks at whether sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) are ineffective or even harmful, as many would claim.

### Websites & Blogs

- [www.truefreedomtrust.co.uk](http://www.truefreedomtrust.co.uk) - brilliant organisation (based in set up to support Christians experiencing unwanted same-sex attraction, their churches and families.

- [www.livingout.org](http://www.livingout.org) - website run by a group of UK Christians on living faithfully while experiencing same-sex attraction.
- [www.spiritualfriendship.org](http://www.spiritualfriendship.org) - a blog featuring authors from a variety of Christian backgrounds, exploring the interaction of sexuality, faith and friendship.
- [www.peter-ould.net](http://www.peter-ould.net) - probably the leading UK blog on issues of faith and sexuality from a conservative evangelical perspective.

### **Other perspectives**

The following would hold different views to mine, some of them significantly different, but I've found it helpful to consider and engage with these other positions.

Interestingly, the following books are all written from 'within the evangelical camp' (although conservative evangelicals would probably argue with this assertion!).

- *Unconditional: Rescuing the gospel from the gays vs Christians debate*, Justin Lee (*Torn* in US) - the personal story of the founder of the Gay Christian Network, including how he arrived at an 'affirming' position.
- *Does Jesus Love Me? A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America*, Jeff Chu. Full of stories of gay people and how they have been treated by Christians.
- *God and the Gay Christian*, Matthew Vines. An attempt to repackage classic arguments for affirming same-sex relationships. Could become a significant book, as it appears to offer gay evangelical Christians exactly what they want.